

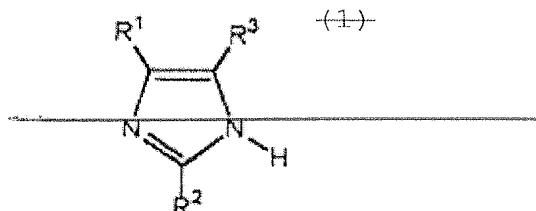
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(currently amended)** An acid-base mixture comprising: a base component and an acid component, wherein:  
~~at least one of the base component and the acid component comprises 2-ethyl-4-methylimidazole and 4-methylimidazole, and optionally 2-ethyylimidazole, and at least two compounds,~~

~~the acid-base mixture is ion conductive, and  
the base component comprises a base represented by chemical formula (1):~~



~~wherein R¹, R², and R³ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, provided that at least one of them is a hydrocarbon group.~~

2. **(cancelled)**

3. (previously presented) The acid-base mixture according to claim 1, having a melting point of 120°C or lower or no melting point.

4. (previously presented) The acid-base mixture according to claim 1, being an equimolar mixture of the base component and the acid component.

5. (previously presented) The acid-base mixture according to claim 1, being liquid at room temperature.

6-8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) The acid-base mixture according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the acid components comprises an acid structurally free from a fluorine atom.

10. (previously presented) The acid-base mixture according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the acid components comprises an inorganic acid.

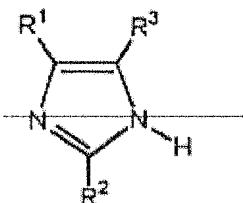
11. (previously presented) The acid-base mixture according to claim 10, wherein at least one of the acid components comprises sulfuric acid or phosphoric acid.

12. (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) The acid-base mixture according to claim 1, being proton conductive.

14. (currently amended) An ion conductor comprising: an acid-base mixture comprising a base component and an acid component,

the base component comprises 2-ethyl-4-  
methylimidazole a base represented by chemical formula (2):



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, and R<sup>3</sup> each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, provided that R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are different, and

said ion conductor has a melting point of 120°C or lower or no melting point, and a glass transition temperature of 25°C or lower.

15-21. (cancelled)

22. **(previously presented)** The ion conductor according to claim 14, wherein the acid component is an acid structurally free from a fluorine atom.

23. **(previously presented)** The ion conductor according to claim 14, wherein the acid component is an inorganic acid.

24. **(original)** The ion conductor according to claim 23, wherein the inorganic acid is sulfuric acid.

25. **(previously presented)** The ion conductor according to claim 14, being a proton conductor.

26. **(new)** The ion conductor according to claim 14, which comprises an electrolyte in a fuel cell, a secondary batter, an electric double layer capacitor, or an electrolytic capacitor.

27. **(new)** A fuel cell, a secondary batter, an electric double layer capacitor, or an electrolytic capacitor comprising an ion conductor as an electrolyte, said ion conductor comprising an acid-base mixture comprising a base component and an acid component,

wherein the base component comprises 2-ethyl-4-methylimidazole, and

said ion conductor has a melting point of 120°C or lower or no melting point, and a glass transition temperature of 25°C or lower.

**28. (new)** The ion conductor according to claim 14, wherein the base component further comprises 4-methylimidazole, and optionally 2-ethylimidazole.